

Briefly

War Trophies: A No Go for Soldiers

Thinking of brining a souvenir back from Iraq? Well think again, you could get a lot more than you bargained for, like a court marshal. Basically if it is personal property that was not sold to you, has value to the host country, is or was a living thing, contains soil or is a military item that can kill or injure do not bring it back or try sending it home.

► For more information on war trophies check Army Regulation 608-4.

on the Home Front

Pentagon Federal Credit Union Opens at Fort Hood

-From the "Fort Hood Sentinel"

Fort Hood Military Credit Union merged with Pentagon Federal Credit Union earlier this year. A grand opening of its Fort Hood facility took place Dec. 10.

Accounts held with Fort Hood Military Federal Credit Union were automatically converted to Pentagon Federal Credit Union accounts.

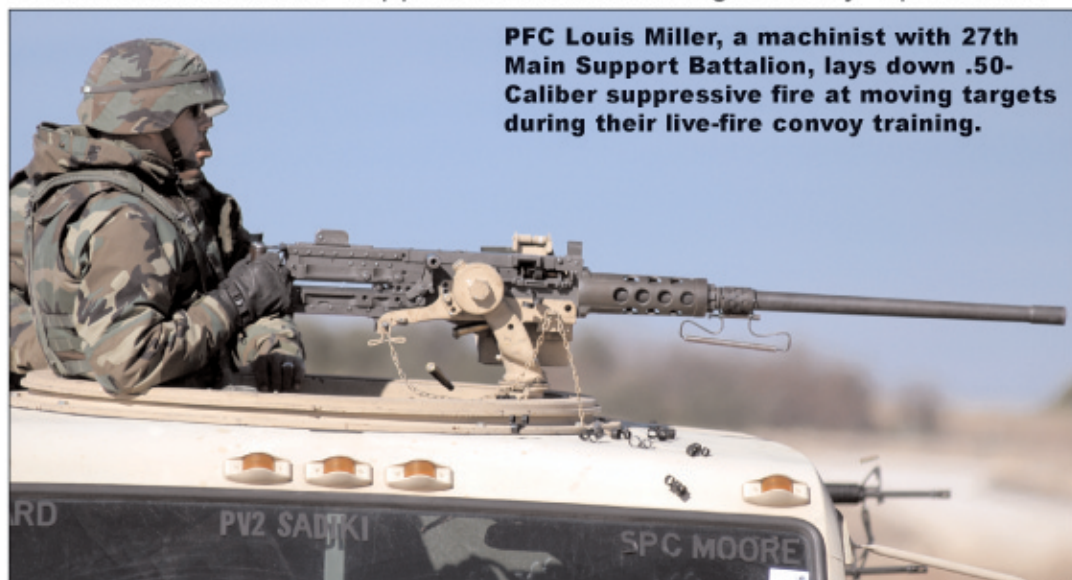
Pentagon Credit Union is headquartered in Alexandria, Va., and has branches in many locations.

The Fort Hood branch is located next to the main Fort Hood post office.

For more information, call 532-4300 or visit www.pentfed.org.

FIRST TEAM

► 27th Maintenance Support Battalion During Convoy Operations



PFC Louis Miller, a machinist with 27th Main Support Battalion, lays down .50-Caliber suppressive fire at moving targets during their live-fire convoy training.

By Spc. Bryan Kinkade, 1 CD PAO

Live Fire Training Prepares First Cav. Troops to Deploy

By Spc. Benjamin Manning
1st Cavalry Division PAO

The Soldiers loaded into the back of their military vehicles and held their magazines firmly, prepared to lock, load and fire. Their convoy pushed forward at 3 mph and each Soldier began to anxiously scan his sector of fire.

A group of targets popped up, and the Soldiers of Charlie Company, 27th Main Support Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division opened fire with their M16A2s, M249s, and .50-Caliber

machine guns.

Even though this was just a training exercise, it taught Soldiers what to do if they are involved in an ambush while in Iraq.

"I know what to do now, it is nothing new anymore," Sgt. Matthew West said. "When the time comes, it won't be something brand new, we will have a little experience to fall back on."

The Soldiers learned how to fire on both moving and stationary targets while they are traveling in a convoy. The tar-

gets represented enemy vehicles and dismounted troops.

"They're going to have to be able to lay down suppressive fire and keep their enemies' heads down while in a moving vehicle," 1st Lt. Jacqueline Escobar said.

Although the ultimate goal of the training is the gained experience, most of the Soldiers enjoyed the opportunity to fire their rifle at will.

"I have to admit firing and putting some rounds down range is always the best," West said.

Black Jack Deploys

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ments to ensure that the family members that we leave back here are going to be well taken care of, so that the Soldiers are better prepared for execution of their tasks in theater, knowing that their families are taken care of," Formica said. "Not only are we a military institution organization, but we're a family."

The Soldiers of 2nd BCT have different views, but most of them are looking forward to this deployment Ciotola said.

"They are looking forward to this deployment, because they want to do the right thing, and they want to test their mettle," Ciotola said. "I cannot be more proud of the Soldiers in this brigade combat team transforming itself from an armored brigade into this motorized cavalry outfit," Ciotola said. "I have some of the finest men and women I have ever met in 27 years in the Army."

Everyone is invited to the farewell ceremony for the Lead Team of the First Team as they conduct their final mission at Fort Hood before deploying to Iraq. 3 p.m., Dec. 18 at Cooper Field.

